

ER 9916

16 June 1948

Dr. Joseph F. Thorning

Dear Father Thorning:

This is merely to inform you that

left our employ yesterday, 15 June 1948.

Very sincerely yours,

Signed & dispatched 6/16/48.

R. H. Hillenkoetter  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Director of Central  
Intelligence

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Distribution:  
✓ Director  
ADSO  
Personnel Branch, A&M  
Central Records

STAT

File: Thorning

ER 9231

Ref: ER 9404

12 May 1948

Dr. Joseph F. Thorning

My dear Dr. Thorning:

I am extremely grateful for the complimentary remarks contained in your letter of 28 April 1948.

STAT The entire matter of the acquisition of the car by [ ] is undergoing a thorough investigation, and I assure you appropriate action will be taken.

With best wishes,

Cordially yours,

s/ ~~xx~~ RHH

R. H. Hillenkoetter  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Director of Central  
Intelligence

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Distribution:  
✓ Director  
✓ Central Records  
Personnel Branch

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Note for record: In reply to letter re [ ]  
Basic correspondence retained by SO. - 13 May 1948 the sent to Personnel then Central Records.

Thorning . 9.7.

# WASHINGTON SCENE

By GEORGE DIXON

**A** GENTLEMAN who knew a little about Latin America as any Norteamericano alive was called into consultation by Secretary of State Marshall the other day. He told our boss diplomat flatly that an undeclared war



against the United States is raging down there.

*The gentleman is neither a professional warrior nor a professional diplomat, but he is a trained observer of political and economic trends.*

He is the Rev. Joseph F. Thorning, professor of sociology at Catholic University in Santiago de Chile, and advisory editor of "The Americas," a publication widely circulated through Central and South America.

He has also taught in the University of San Marcos, in Lima, Peru, and the Central University of Ecuador, in Quito. In addition he has delivered lectures in practically every Latin American center large enough to boast a lecture hall.

**T**HE FIRST time I ever met Father Thorning he was having lunch in the House Restaurant with Clare Boothe Luce. He tries to change the subject whenever it comes up but it was not long after his conversations with Mrs. Luce that she announced her decision to embrace Catholicism.

I was brought up a hard-shell Baptist, and have every intention of remaining same, but I go for Father Thorning hook, line and sinker. He is one of the most forthright men of the cloth I have ever known.

General Marshall found him the same way because he pulled no punches in telling the Secretary of State that this country is going to lose out completely in Latin America unless it wakes up.

*"The Red Fascists have launched an undeclared war," he said. "They are out to give us the business."*

Father Thorning has been busy undermining us everywhere in Latin America.

"In cultural affairs," he declared, "they have

us on the defensive. We are fighting a rear-guard action."

**F**ATHER THORNING said we've got to find some way, and find it fast, to demolish their propaganda. We've got to fight their lies with forceful truth.

"One of their great weapons," he said, "is unspoken deception. For instance, there was a celebration of book week in Havana recently. The biggest display of books was by the Soviet Union."

"The author most touted was Maxim Gorky. The Reds had huge photographs of Gorky alongside Stalin and Molotoff, implying that they were ideological and cultural pals."

"The truth, of course, is that Gorky did his work under the Czar. He was never a Nazi-minded follower of Karl Marx."

**F**ATHER THORNING said the truth, if it could be gotten over, would wreck communism in Latin America.

"Communism," he said, "has never bettered the lot of the people anywhere in the world. If we could only make people understand that!"

**I**NCIDENTALLY, Congress has invited Father Thorning to deliver the invocation at the official celebration of Pan-American Day on Capitol Hill April 14. We'll probably be hearing squawks from a lot of the Communist fronts.

**A** MAIDEN lady from Peru, Ind., named Miss India Shearer, was at the Shoreham the other evening listening to the classical offerings of Barnee, the old maestro, and his symphonic hirelings.

She requested a rendition of "Doing What Comes Naturally" in which Mr. Paul Dawson gets off verses not in the original lyrics. Barnee took a very heroic stance and announced:

*"We dedicate the next number to India!"*

Well, do you know a group of Britishers seated at a ringside table grabbed the old maestro later and accused him of deliberately trying to stir up trouble within the Empire!

**I**NCIDENTALLY, Miss India is a sister-in-law of football's famous Dutch Bergman. But she is very respectable nevertheless.

**R**EPRESENTATIVE JOHN DAVIS LODGE, of Connecticut, was at a dinner party in the elegant 1925 F Street club and excited the curiosity of the lady on his right. She said she had heard so much about him, his career in the movies, etc., and was just dying to know more.

The handsome Mr. Lodge told her to fire away with questions and he would answer any within reason.

"Well," said the lady, "I want to know where you are from?"

"That's easy," grinned Mr. Lodge. "I am from Connecticut, but before that I was from Boston. But actually I am from right here."

He looked around, his brow suddenly furrowing.

*"As a matter of fact," he blurted finally, "I think I was born in this very house."*

"You certainly were," cut in the hostess. "This club used to be the home of your grandfather, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge!"

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Admiral,

RH

This is an old clipping (Feb 47)  
re Dr Thorning, which you may want to  
take time to read.

File: Thorning